

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Search and Rescue Component Budget Summary

Component: Search and Rescue

Contribution to Department's Mission

Preserve public peace, protect life, property, and resources.

Core Services

On land, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers (AST), is the only agency in the state that is statutorily empowered to provide search and rescue operations for lost or missing, as well as deceased persons. The U.S. Coast Guard has responsibility for search and rescues at sea, and frequently assists with searches along Alaska's coastline. The U.S. Air Force, assisted by the Civil Air Patrol, has responsibility for searches for downed or missing aircraft, and like the Coast Guard, frequently assists with ground searches. Unlike criminal and traffic enforcement, and investigations where AST provides technical expertise and support to local police departments, AST bears sole responsibility for search and rescue services regardless of location. To perform this function, roles are somewhat reversed. AST receives assistance from local and volunteer agencies, but remains responsible for the search and rescue, even within municipalities and on military reservations. Search and rescue services provided by the Alaska State Troopers include:

Initiating action for the recovery of lost or missing persons.

- Coordinating rescue operations for injured persons; conducting recovery operations for deceased persons.
- Coordinating small and large-scale responses to search and rescue events including resource management, interagency coordination, and the use of private resources, various agencies, and private persons.
- Reimbursing public and private organizations for resources spent during search and rescue operations.
- Funding aircraft for search and rescue missions.
- Providing logistical support and technical expertise to local law enforcement and volunteer organizations including provision of equipment, search management, and planning operational support.
- Training and support of volunteer resources through professional conferences, local seminars, and practical exercises.
- Coordinating resources with the rescue coordination components of the Alaska National Guard and United States Coast Guard to meet the requirements of the National Search and Rescue Plan.
- Management of preventative programs to educate the public on wilderness related risk, and methods to mitigate risk and reduce the loss of life or injury to persons.

The Division of Alaska State Troopers also contracts with qualified instructors to provide avalanche awareness and safety training to the public. The project goals are to:

- Raise public awareness of avalanche hazards to improve the safety of skiers, snowmachiners, and other winter recreationists in Alaska's backcountry areas.
- Provide tuition-free classes to target audiences, including high school and young adults in various regions of the state, including. Emphasis is given to areas having a history of avalanche-related emergencies.
- Address topics such as recognition of avalanche-prone areas, hazard assessment, use of avalanche transceivers, essential safety equipment, trip planning, and emergency procedures in the event of a life-threatening avalanche.

The department is developing public awareness information including informational brochures and pamphlets, trip plans, and public service announcements geared to prevent search and rescue events.

The goal of search and rescue is to reduce loss of life, minimize injury to Alaska's citizens or visitors, and recover remains of deceased in a timely manner to minimize the grief suffered by the families involved. In the past six years, the division safely rescued and returned to their loved ones 2,350 individuals through search and rescue operations.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$376,400

Personnel:

Full time	0
Part time	0
Total	0

Key Component Challenges

Because of the environment in which Alaskans live and play, every search and rescue event is treated as an emergency. By definition, search and rescue missions are unpredictable, and require immediate response to assure public safety. If expenses related to search and rescue activity exceed available funds, additional funding has to be located, since the need to respond rapidly to search and rescue events does not end just because funds are used up. Search and rescue decisions are not based upon availability of funds, but upon the likelihood of mission success under acceptable (safety for searchers being a paramount concern) search conditions.

Maritime searches involving Coast Guard helicopters are not billed to AST; however, under certain circumstances inland searches involving National Guard helicopters are and are quite expensive. Whenever possible, AST mitigates these expenses through reliance on DPS aircraft and the use of volunteer resources such as the Civil Air Patrol.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

The Alaska State Troopers will see its support of volunteer organizations continue to increase in FY2008. The Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA) will be a major focus, insofar as it represents a focal point for volunteer search and rescue organizations across the state. AST's support of ASARA enhances the increasing professionalism of Alaska search and rescue organizations and provides a venue for search and rescue groups to participate in training and planning in a coherent fashion.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

- 55 Aircraft related cases investigated
- 60 Overdue hiker cases investigated
- 64 Overdue boater cases investigated
- 163 Overdue motorist cases investigated
- 117 Overdue snow machine cases investigated
- 307 Other search and rescue cases investigated
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For a total of 766 search and rescue related cases responded to in FY2006 by the Department of Public Safety.

During FY2005, the Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA) was established. This statewide volunteer organization exists to support the education and training of search and rescue volunteer personnel in the State of Alaska. This is funded by an outside source, with coordination and administrative support provided by the Department of Public Safety.

During FY2006 ASARA, with the support of the Department of Public Safety, provided training in the following critical areas:

- Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation and Rescue
- Managing the Lost Person Incident
- K-9 Avalanche workshop
- Man-Tracking / Track Awareness courses
- Introduction to Search and Rescue courses
- Fundamentals of Search and Rescue courses
- K-9 Cadaver Search technical course

Seventeen individuals, including two DPS employees, were certified as instructors qualified to present National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) courses of instruction allowing for training and certification at a national standard in search and rescue methods and techniques.

During FY2006, over 450 volunteers received training under this program, substantially increasing both professional standards and operational proficiency within the search and rescue arena.

Because of this training, and the opportunities it presents to interested community members, there has been an increased interest in volunteer search and rescue programs. Several new volunteer groups either have been formed or are in the planning stages.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

DPS-Powers and duties of department (AS 44.41.020)
State Troopers (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.110)
Police Protection (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.790)
Law enforcement duties (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.086)
Controlled Substances (AS 11.71.010 - AS 11.71.900)
Judicial Services (AS 22.20.100 - AS 22.20.140)
Prisoner Transportation (AS 33.30.071 and AS 33.30.081)
Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.120 - AS 18.60.175)
Village Public Safety Officer Definition (AS 01.10.060(c)(7)(C))
VPSO Program (AS 18.65.670)
VPSO Regulations (13 AAC 96.010-900)
Concealed Handgun Permits (AS 18.65.700)
Security Guard Licensing (AS 18.65.400 - AS 18.65.410)
Sex Offender Registration (AS 12.63.010 - AS 12.63.100)
Central Registry of Sex Offenders (AS 18.65.087)
Department to assist other agencies (AS 18.65.090)
Document and disseminate information regarding homicides (AS 44.41.040)
Document and investigate missing persons (AS 18.65.610)
Investigate fires resulting from crimes (AS 18.70.030)
Investigate sexual assault and child exploitation (AS 18.65.086)
DUI Forfeiture Requirements (AS 28.35.036-.037)
DPS DNA collection and registration requirements (AS 44.41.035)
Duty of Law Enforcement to Provide VCCB information (AS 18.67.175)
Rights of Crime Victims to be notified orally and in writing by Law Enforcement (AS 12.61.010)
Aeronautics (AS 02)
Criminal (AS 11)
Environment (AS 46)
Fish & Game (AS 16)
Fish & Game (5 AAC)
Guide/Outfitting (12 AAC)
Guide/Outfitting (AS 08)
Health & Safety (AS 18)
Limited Entry (20 AAC)
State Government (AS 44)
Training (13 AAC 85)
Training (AS 44.41.020(a))

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Search and Rescue Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	29.6	66.6	66.6
73000 Services	108.4	184.3	184.3
74000 Commodities	107.2	125.5	125.5
75000 Capital Outlay	21.3	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	266.5	376.4	376.4
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	266.5	376.4	376.4
Funding Totals	266.5	376.4	376.4

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	376.4	0.0	0.0	376.4
FY2008 Governor	376.4	0.0	0.0	376.4